

Council

Beauty vs. drainage splits politicians

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Local politicians may ditch the advice of their engineering experts and allow a resident to re-design a public roadway.

Councillors reached an impasse Tuesday after a lengthy debate on whether or not a Sleepy Hollow Lane resident should be given permission to replace a drainage ditch with an 18-inch culvert.

Ted Wilson told officials the culvert would allow him to complete landscaping and would eliminate a yearly attack of weeds growing on the sides

of the steep, unkempt ditch. "(The culvert) would allow for the beautification of the front of our home," Wilson stated in a letter.

Wilson said his "unique" request would not set a precedent because there are no homes or building lots on either side of his property.

He added the proposed culvert would flow directly into an adjacent stream and would improve the look of his circular driveway.

But town public works director Paul Whitehouse warned officials that filling in the ditch could cause road deterioration such as frost boil, pavement cracking and drainage prob-

lems. Whitehouse said he "discourages the construction of extended lengths of culvert pipe (which can be) a nuisance for staff when flushing or removing obstructions."

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice said council should follow the advice of its staff.

"We've heard from the opinions of the experts already. Why are we wasting more time on this than we did for the fire truck?" Prentice fumed.

But Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril said council should consider Wilson's request, and wants staff to work out details with the resident.

"Why are we closing the door on a request without consultation?" Ancheril said.

Council inquired whether Wilson could enter into an agreement releasing the town from liability if the road does deteriorate because of the culvert.

But staff insisted the town cannot escape liability because the road is, and will always be, public property. Staff also warned of impending liability problems should Wilson sell his property.

Council, unable to decide how to deal with the issue, deferred the matter back to staff.

Council finally decides on street name - Spring Vista Lane

It took five tries, two years and about \$2,000 of taxpayers' money, but council finally put an end to a street-naming marathon Tuesday afternoon.

It all started because of York Region's upcoming 911 emergency system, expected to be on-line next year.

Each municipality was given a list of streets within the region, and was instructed to rename those with the potential for confusion during a life-threatening situation.

One of those streets was Kennedy Lane North - a quiet, dirt road harboring one household.

The town's street naming committee decided in 1990 to change the name of Kennedy Lane North to Hakonson Lane to reflect the family's heritage.

But a landowner on the street objected to the name. Instead, Anne Nicastro, who called the decision "biased," suggested Nicely Lane or Springvale Lane.

Both of those were objected to by the Hakonson family. The committee then voted to rename Kennedy Lane North to Choko Lane, but Nicastro again objected.

Council put an end to the debate this week and unanimously approved Spring Vista Lane - it's fifth

choice - during a public hearing. Although Ed Hakonson had said earlier that he would object to the latest name suggestion, he failed to show up at the hearing.

Despite rumors that Spring Vista Lane would cause confusion for emergency crews, fire chief Bill Brown disagreed.

"This (name) won't present any problems to us at all," Brown said after viewing a complete list of York Region road names.

Spring Vista Lane it is... finally.

Prentice wins support to lower speed limit on 9th

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice won council support this week to reduce the speed limit on the Ninth Line from Markham.

Last week Prentice asked officials to support a resolution to have the Ninth Line speed limit heading into Stouffville lowered from 80 km/per hour to 60 km/per hour.

Despite Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril's bid to squash to plans until further investigation is sought, council agreed to have staff post the new limits as soon as possible.

Ancheril said council doesn't have the expertise to determine whether or not speed limits

should be increased or reduced. He added officials should listen to their trained staff and make decisions based on expert recommendations.

Prentice, however, said his argument is strengthened by the fact that there is no sidewalk along the Ninth Line, and by mounting safety concerns from Parkview Village and local residents.

Prentice said the fluctuating limits are "rather confusing" to motorists who must "speed up, slow down, speed up, slow

down" several times before reaching Main St.

"It doesn't make sense to me why people need to speed up just to enter Stouffville, anyway," Prentice said.

Ward 3 councillor Nick Tatone told officials he has "lost fights" in the past to have roads in his ward lowered.

He warned that if the limits on the Ninth were reduced, people would be asking for similar requests from his area.

But Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby called the

Ninth a "very different piece of road" because of the large number of seniors situated there. Council supported the resolution to lower the limit from 80 to 60 km/per hour. Staff is expected to post the new signs in the near future.



PRENTICE



TATONE

Salon fights the dump

With the assistance of his well-groomed customers, a Stouffville hair stylist is helping fight the dumps.

Mario D'Addese, owner of newly-renovated Fame hair salon on Main St. presented Mayor Fran Sainsbury with a \$175 cheque this week to help the town's cause.

D'Addese said he charged \$1 extra for a wash and cut during the past few months to help raise the money.

How did his customers feel about that? The councillors asked: "Some complained, but most were happy about it," D'Addese said. D'Addese is the first local business to donate funds for the fight against the province to keep a dump out of Whitchurch-Stouffville. But Sainsbury said she hopes others will follow by contributing change to one of the 113 green money cans being distributed to merchants across the town.

No word on announcement

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doing our damnest to get this done on time," Joe said. "I can assure you, however, that Nov. 17 will not be the announcement date of the short list," Joe confirmed.

The IWA, headed by Environment Minister Ruth Grier, announced last June 57 potential sites in York Region that would act as a long-term waste solution for Metro Toronto and York. The list was to be whittled down to about five or six sites in September, but was delayed until sometime this month. Joe refused to speculate when the announcement would be made, however.



Photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville remembers

As (from left) Owen Pritchard, Mary Hamerston, Alex Rae and Aldine Sinclair hold the flags, Don Acton of the Ballantrae Lions Club lays a wreath at Stouffville cenotaph accompanied by Cliff Aiken at Remembrance Day ceremonies Nov. 11.

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